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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 62nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 158: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR (continued) (A/45/242/Add.1 and A/45/1021; A/C.5/45/L.32)

1. Ms. MUSTONEN (Finland), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.32 on financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), said that the draft resolution was based on Security Council resolution 693 (1991) of 20 May 1991, followed the traditional format for draft resolutions on peace-keeping operations and provided for the application of a peace-keeping scale of assessments. She recommended the draft resolution for adoption without a vote.

2. Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.32 on financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador was adopted without a vote.

3. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that his delegation welcomed the launching of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador and the improved political climate in Central America. The Secretary-General and United Nations staff members deserved praise for their efforts in the region. His delegation welcomed, in particular, the intensive dialogue between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN), held under the auspices of the Secretary-General in accordance with the Geneva Agreement and the Caracas Agenda.

4. His delegation hoped that the negotiations currently taking place in Mexico would resolve such outstanding issues as a cease-fire and the return of the armed forces and would reach agreement on a negotiated settlement of the conflict. Once there was agreement on the remaining issues, it anticipated that the United Nations would be called on to implement a broader peace-keeping operation, of which human rights verification would be an integral part. Establishment of the human rights component of ONUSAL would contribute positively to the current negotiating process which, in turn, should promote democratization, respect for human rights and the reunification of Salvadorian society.

5. His delegation was aware of the need to provide ONUSAL with adequate resources in its initial phase in order to ensure the success of the current negotiations. It none the less urged the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to help provide ONUSAL with appropriate resources as soon as it was given a mandate to operate as an integrated peace-keeping operation and throughout the subsequent phases of its activities.

6. His delegation appreciated the fact that the draft resolution adopted the language of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 693 (1991). Referring to ONUSAL as "an integrated peace-keeping operation" clarified why the traditional peace-keeping mode of financing was being applied to a human rights verification mission. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution gave

(Mr. Inomata, Japan)

the Secretary-General some assurances as to the level of funding that would be made available for ONUSAL. However, the formulations used in those paragraphs were similar to those used for the financing of peace-keeping operations whose mandates were renewed every six months, as the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). His delegation had agreed to those formulations with some reluctance, as the mandate of ONUSAL was for 12, not 6, months. The Fifth Committee should have considered adopting a 12-month assessment period based on the precedent set by the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG). That would have represented a firmer commitment and would have been justified by the Committee's acceptance of the substantial reduction in the Secretary-General's estimate, recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In future, the Fifth Committee should consider how the length of the assessment and financial periods was to be determined in relation to the mandate period of peace-keeping operations.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 158.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.